



BE ENERGY EFFICIENT

# OREA

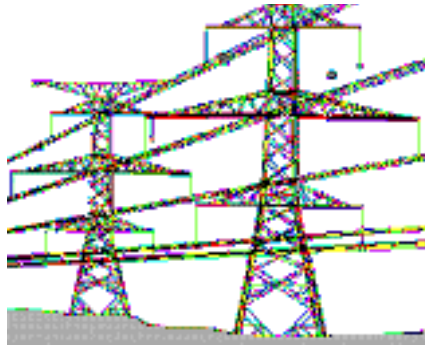


STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY  
OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISERS

## California's Energy Challenge

California is facing an unprecedented period of electricity shortages and rotating outages to compensate for the shortfall. To reduce the risk of power outages, the most important thing we can do in the short term is reduce our demand for electricity and use energy more efficiently.

The Governor and leaders of the California Legislature are working with utility companies, generators and consumer groups to fashion long-term solutions for reliable and affordable electricity. Government offices have already implemented a plan to reduce consumption by a minimum of 8 percent across the board. But, we all have an important role to play right now.



Energy efficiency is a good business practice, as well as a good routine to develop at home. There are some simple things that you can do right now both in the workplace and at home to reduce your demand and cut your energy costs. They are as follows:

- Minimize energy usage during peak demand hours from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- Turn thermostats down to 68 degrees or below; reduce settings to 55 degrees at the end of the day. (For each degree, you'll save up to five percent on your heating costs.)
- Close shades and blinds at night to reduce the amount of heat lost through windows.
- Close off vents to rooms that are not being used.
- Wear comfortable business attire. Dress appropriately for cooler temperatures.
- Turn off all unnecessary lights and appliances, especially in unused offices and conference rooms and turn down remaining lighting levels where possible.
- Set computers, monitors, printers, copiers and other business equipment to their energy saving settings, and turn them off at the end of the day. If rotating outages are imminent, don't forget to back up your work frequently.
- Avoid running large appliances such as washers, dryers and electric ovens during peak demand hours.
- Buy Energy Star appliances, products and lights.

As a real estate appraiser out in the field, you can promote energy efficient practices among property owners. You can encourage them to reduce lighting and recommend energy efficient fixtures when performing property inspections.

For more tips on reducing demand and what to do if there is an electricity curtailment in your neighborhood, visit the Office of Real Estate Appraiser's web site at [www.orea.ca.gov](http://www.orea.ca.gov) and click on "California's Energy Crisis" at the top of our homepage or visit the Business, Transportation and Housing web site at [www.bth.ca.gov](http://www.bth.ca.gov) and click on "California's Energy Challenge".



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